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**BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE**

Postpozice adjektiv - identifikace a vliv na význam jmenné fráze

Adjectives in postposition: identification and the meaning of the noun phrase

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Praha, květen 2011

Alena Neubauerová

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## Abstract

In the noun phrases, adjectives can be placed either before the noun (prepositively) or after the noun (postpositively). This thesis is concerned with the description of postponed adjectives and with the reasons for postposition. These reasons can be grammatical, semantic, or semantico-grammatical (for example, the phrase contains another adjective in a superlative degree, or the adjective has different meanings regarding its position in the phrase). The grammars used for this thesis list these reasons and divide them into categories that are all described in the theoretical part of this thesis.

The use of postponed adjectives in practice is demonstrated using examples excerpted from *the British National Corpus* which were assigned into categories based on semantic and syntactic criteria. Those categories listed in the theoretical part of this thesis are supplemented by those established to describe the actual examples from *the Corpus*. Thirty adjectives were analyzed in detail and illustrate, e.g., cases of semantic difference between pre and post-head adjectives, terminological units or cases where the position is variable. From all these examples, the conclusions about the practical use of postposition are drawn.

Adjektiva mohou být v rámci jmenné fráze umístěna buď před jménem (v prepozici), nebo za jménem (v postpozici). Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá popisem adjektiv, která jsou postponovaná, a důvody, které k této pozici vedou a které mohou být gramatické, sémantické nebo na pomezí těchto dvou (adjektivum je například postponováno, obsahuje-li jmenná fráze ještě jiné adjektivum ve třetím stupni, nebo nabírá-li adjektivum jiných významů podle svého umístění v rámci jmenné fráze). Anglické gramatiky tyto důvody uvádí a třídí do kategorií, které jsou uvedeny v teoretické části této práce.

Použití postponovaných adjektiv je pak v praxi demonstrováno na příkladech z *Britského národního korpusu*, které jsou seřazeny do kategorií podle sémantických a syntaktických kritérií. Ty kategorie jmenované v teoretické části práce jsou pak

doplněny těmi, které byly ustanoveny na základě konkrétních příkladů z korpusu. Třicet adjektiv bylo popsáno detailně: ty ilustrují případy významových rozdílů preponovaných a postponovaných adjektiv, terminologickou povahu adjektiv, či ty případy, ve kterých je umístění adjektiva libovolné. Z těchto analyzovaných příkladů jsou následně vyvozeny závěry o tom, jakými způsoby se postpozice adjektiv používá v praxi.

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## List of abbreviations

Grammar books (or articles) used:

<i>A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language</i> .....	CGEL
<i>A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics</i> .....	DGTL
<i>Corpus Based Language Studies</i> .....	CBLS
<i>Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English</i> .....	LGSWE
<i>Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny</i> .....	MSA
<i>Practical English Usage</i> .....	PEU
Presupposition in Postmodifying Participles: the Assumptions Made” ...	PPP
<i>The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language</i> .....	CamGEL
<i>The Cambridge Grammar of English</i> .....	CamGE

Internet sources used:

<i>The British National Corpus</i> .....	the BNC
<i>Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English</i> .....	LDCE
<i>Macmillan Dictionary</i> .....	MD
<i>Merriam-Webster Dictionary</i> .....	MWD
<i>Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary</i> .....	OALD
<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> .....	OED

## 1. Introduction

This thesis is concerned with uncomplemented adjectives that do not precede but follow the head of the noun phrase, and with the reasons for such postponed position.

Adjectives can occur attributively (they premodify a noun, standing between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase) and predicatively (they can function as a subject or object complement). In their attributive function, they can occasionally be postponed: they follow the noun or the pronoun that they modify. There are several reasons for such postposition: normally, the postposition of an adjective is used when the adjective is further modified. A postponed adjective may also appear as a part of some fixed expressions, mostly academic terms. Adjectives beginning with a prefix *a-* are postponed almost exclusively as well as polysemic adjectives whose position is crucial for the meaning of the phrase, i.e. *an involved problem* versus *the people involved* [MSA: 145-146]. Sometimes the postposition can point to the temporariness of the denoted action, indicating its limited validity as opposed to the preposed adjective that expresses its permanency.

This thesis will try to identify examples of such postponed adjectives in *the British National Corpus* and look for the motivation of this marked position.

## 2. Theoretical Background

### 2.1 Definition and form of an adjective

Adjectives are all words that fall in one word class due to their function: they are used to express some quality or characteristic of the noun which they modify. “They typically denote properties – most certainly in the domains of size, shape, colour, worth or age” [CamGEL: 527]. That is the reason why they are so frequently used in English: there are many thousands of them and almost every sentence of certain length contains an adjective. According to R. L. Trask, an adjective is “a lexical category, or a lexical item belonging to this category, found in many, though in not all, languages, inflectionally and distributionally being an open class whose members have real semantic content. Canonical



adjectives typically have meanings expressing permanent or temporary attributes, such as *big, old, green, happy* and *dry*, and indeed in some languages adjectives constitute a closed class containing only a dozen or so such items (Dixon 1977a), but more typically the class contains a large number of items with meanings that may be more noun-like or verb-like, such as *stony, shiny, dead, astonishing* and *musical*” [DGTL: 7-8].

*Big, old, green, happy* and *dry* are examples of adjectives not derived from any words that would possibly belong to other word classes, for example from nouns [MSA: 141]. According to Quirk, “they have no identifying form” [CGEL: 402], as for instance *good, hot, little, young, or fat*. Other examples of such type are: *deaf, proud, rude, large, short, soft, shallow* or *mild* [MSA: 141].

Another type of adjectives is morphologically complex: these adjectives are derived by adding suffixes, i.e. *-able* in *comfortable*, *-ful* in *playful*, *-ous* in *dangerous*, *-al* in *seasonal*, *-ic* in *scientific*, *-less* in *useless*, or *-y* in *dirty* [CGEL: 402]. According to Dušková, these adjectives can be sometimes compared to stative verbs, for example *to succeed* means *to be successful* [MSA: 142].

Other formal types of adjectives are those whose form is identical with the present participle of the respective verb, for example *interesting, stimulating, striking, amusing, understanding, disgusting, or willing* [MSA: 147]. They, however, differ from the participles by the ability to be graded and intensified [*ibid*]. Adjectives ending with the *-ed* suffix also have the same form as their respective past participles, such as *tired, complicated, surprised, upset, pleased or satisfied* [MSA: 148]. The adjectives with the respective participle form can also occur in a compound form: *full-grown, well-behaved, good-looking, or heartbreaking* [MSA: 148-149]. Sometimes they are distinguished from the participles by their form or pronunciation, such as *blessed, crooked, dogged, learned, ragged, or aged* [MSA: 148]. Many adjectives are homophonous with these forms of verbs. In that case, we have to consider whether the participle or adjective follows the verb *be* or whether it modifies a noun [CamGEL: 540]:

- *She was sleeping.* (progressive aspect of the verb *sleep*)
- *She was killed.* (passive voice of the verb *kill*)
- *They were seen.* (passive voice of the verb *see*)

as opposed to:

- *This was disturbing.* (adjective)
- *He was very distressed.* (adjective)
- *He was drunk.* (adjective) [*CamGEL*: 540]

There are several tests for distinguishing these two functions: firstly, to replace *be* by other complex- intransitive verbs such as *seem* and *become*. (*This seems disturbing. He became very distressed. He appeared drunk. \*She seemed sleeping. \*He became killed.\*They appeared seen.*) The second is intensification by *very* or *too* and the third factor is simply the meaning, for example, according to *CamGEL*, “the adjective *drunk* is semantically distinct from the past participle verb-form of *The milk had already been drunk*” [*CamGEL*: 541].

Some words that are under certain circumstances considered adjectives are not adjectives by origin: they function like adjectives only on a syntactic level, whereas morphologically they are still members of their original class: it is mostly nouns that undergo the process of partial conversion. They are regarded as adjectives because they stand before the noun which they modify, or better to say, they are nouns used as attributive modifiers, because calling these items syntactic adjectives is still not precise [*CamGEL*: 536]. These nouns then cannot be regarded by the criteria generally applied to adjectives, like grading or adverbial dependents: they do not take the analytic comparative marker *more* or adverbs as modifiers [*CamGEL*: 536]. According to Dušková, “this usage of a noun in the position of an adjective, meaning the premodification of a noun by another noun, is very frequent in English.”<sup>1</sup> As for examples, there are listed the following instances: *mother tongue, traffic lights, press conference, average distance, smallpox vaccination, fuel consumption, population growth, consumer society, or nature reserve* [*MSA*: 27], with the first noun being the modifier and the second one the head of the phrase. Since it is the word order that assigns these items the adjective-like nature, they cannot be expected to occur as postponed elements.

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<sup>1</sup> Since *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* has been written in Czech, all the quotations coming from this source have been translated by myself.

Some adjectives can also function as the head of the noun phrase themselves. *LGSWE* calls this type of conversion a quasi-conversion (this thesis already used the term partial conversion), because the head of the phrase still does not take an –s ending even though it has a plural meaning [*LGSWE*: 519]. *LGSWE* lists the following examples:

- *Everybody picks on the Welsh, don't they?*
- *I think the contrast between the very rich and the very poor in this country is disgusting.*
- *But in politics the unlikely can happen.* [*LGSWE*: 519 - 520]

## 2.2. Other characteristics of adjectives

It is also semantics that plays a certain role when classifying adjectives since their meaning is always closely connected to their morphological and mainly syntactic possibilities. According to *CGEL*, three types of features of adjectives can be distinguished: their being stative or dynamic, gradable or nongradable (this is a morphological matter), inherent or noninherent [*CGEL*: 434 – 435].

### 2.2.1. Stative and dynamic adjectives

Adjectives are mostly stative, but they can also be perceived as dynamic, when they express a subjective attitude of the speaker and thus can be seen as temporary, for example *abusive, careful, adorable, conceited* and so on [*CGEL*: 434]. They also differ syntactically, for example an adjective *tall* cannot be used with the progressive aspect or with the imperative [*ibid*].

### 2.2.2. Gradable and nongradable adjectives

Most adjectives are also gradable, which means they have the possibility of comparison: *tall – taller – tallest, beautiful – more beautiful – most beautiful* [*CGEL*: 435]. The comparison can be then realized by the preposition *than*: for example, *Susan is more shy than most girls of her age* [*MSA*: 150]. Gradability is also recognizable through the possibility of modification with intensifiers that expresses the intensity of the adjective: *very tall, so beautiful, extremely useful* [*CGEL*: 435]. The degree can be indicated by means of a degree adverb, for example *How good is it?* [*CamGEL*: 531] All dynamic and

most stative adjectives are gradable, except for the ones that have a denominal nature or denote nationalities, such as *atomic* and *British* [CGEL: 435]. These non-gradable adjectives are numerous; CGEL gives the following examples: *alphabetical, ancillary, chief, equine, federal, glandular, later, left, marine, medical, obtainable, orthogonal, phonological, public, residual, syllabic, tenth, or utter* [CamGEL: 531]. In addition, there is another group of adjectives that are called absolutes and that are not gradable because they express some absolute or ultimate value: *absolute, complete, correct, equal, essential, eternal, ideal, impossible, perfect, supreme, total, or unique* [CamGEL: 531].

The gradability itself is then realized either inflectionally or analytically. The adjectives that inflect for grade take endings: *flat – flatter – flattest, or soon – sooner – soonest* [CamGEL: 533]. Analytic comparatives and superlatives are formed by means of the degree adverbs *more* and *most* in the pre-head position: *useful – more useful – most useful* [CamGEL: 534]. Also the members of another word class, adverbs, can undergo this process, for example *seriously – more seriously – most seriously*<sup>2</sup> [CamGEL: 534]. It is also possible to express inferiority in the respective aspect: that can be realized by the means *less* and *least*, for example *She is less gifted than her sister*. According to Dušková, this comparison is rather rare [MSA: 153].

### 2.2.3. Inherent and noninherent adjectives

Next to being gradable or nongradable, adjectives can be either inherent or noninherent. Those that are inherent characterize their referent directly. CGEL uses the example of the adjective *wooden*: *a wooden cross* is made of wood; it is characterized directly, whereas *a wooden actor* is characterized indirectly, on the basis of analogy, and therefore the adjective here is noninherent. *A firm friend* is a friend whose friendship is firm and *a perfect stranger* is a stranger who is perfectly strange [CGEL: 435].

According to CGEL gradable adjectives are either inherent, as in a *black coat*, or noninherent, as in *a new friend*. Dynamic adjectives are generally inherent, though there are exceptions as is shown in the table below.

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<sup>2</sup> Adjectives and adverbs have many similar features; it is their syntactic function that provides the basic difference between them. They are both used as modifiers but an adjective modifies a noun, whereas an adverb modifies a verb, as is shown by the following example: *a rapid movement X it rapidly improved, a surprising depth X surprisingly deep* [CamGEL: 529].

Table 1 [CGEL: 436] Semantic subclassification of adjectives

Gradable	Inherent	Stative	Examples
+	+	+	<i>That's a big boat. She is a brave woman.</i> (central adjectives)
+	+	-	<i>She is being very brave.</i> (dynamic use of central adjective <sup>3</sup> )
+	-	+	<i>He is a firm friend. He is a wooden actor.</i> (peripheral <sup>4</sup> +adjectives, noninherent)
+	-	-	<i>This actor is being wooden tonight.</i> (dynamic use of stative adjective)
-	-	+	<i>She is a medical student.</i> (peripheral adjective: nongradable and noninherent)

### 2.3. Adjectives from the syntactic point of view

So far we have been concerned with the morphological point of view. To group adjectives into categories, we can also use a division based on syntactic criteria, which is the crucial one for this thesis. Adjectives can be divided according to their position in the clause: whether they can be used in both attributive and predicative position or whether they can be used only in one of the above mentioned. (When used attributively, they premodify the noun, standing between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase, and when used predicatively, they function as a subject or object complement.)

According to Trask, these syntactic features are essential when defining an adjective: “Among the grammatical characteristics often displayed by adjectives are attributive position (*a big house*), predicative position (*The house is big*), comparison (*bigger*,

<sup>3</sup> The meaning of *central* is to be explained later.

<sup>4</sup> The meaning of *peripheral* is to be explained later.

*biggest*) and inflection for gender, number and case as required by agreement with, or government by, a head noun (not in English, but consider French [...])” [DGTL: 7 - 8].

CGEL then divides adjectives according to the above mentioned syntactic criteria (except for the inflection that does not occur with English adjectives) in the following manner:

- a. **They can freely occur in attributive function:** *an ugly painting, the round table, dirty linen.*
- b. **They can freely occur in predicative function as subject complement or as object complement:** *The painting is ugly. He thought the painting ugly.*
- c. **They can be premodified by the intensifier very:** *The children are very happy.*
- d. **They can take comparative and superlative forms:** these can be realized by the means of inflection or by the addition of the premodifier *more* and *most*: *The children are happier now. They are the happiest people I know. These students are more intelligent. They are the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen* [CGEL: 402 – 403].

The table below shows how particular adjectives comply with these criteria:

Table 2 [CGEL: 404] Criteria for establishing adjective classes

		A	B	C	D		
1	Hungry	+	+	+	+	Central	Adjective
2	Infinite	+	+	-	-	Central	Adjective
3	Old	+	-	+	+	Peripheral	Adjective
4	Afraid	?	+	+	+	Peripheral	Adjective
5	Utter	+	-	-	-	Peripheral	Adjective
6	Asleep	-	+	-	-	Peripheral	
7	Soon	-	-	+	+	Adverb	

Those adjectives that function both attributively and predicatively are considered central. They are descriptive in meaning, gradable (they can express the degree of the denoted quality), and inflectional morphologically. Those that occur in only attributive or predicative syntactic functions are peripheral: they can either modify a nominal expression or stand as a complementation with copular verbs.<sup>5</sup> (In addition, there is a small group of others that occur only postpositively [*CamGEL*: 553].)

*LGSWE* lists following sentences as examples of the peripheral adjectives:

- *Heisenberg was totally **unable** to answer them. \*An **unable** Heisenberg could not answer them.*
- *He has lost his reputation as a strong man, having been defeated twice by a **mere** boy. \*He has lost his reputation as a strong man, having been defeated by a boy who was **mere**. [*LGSWE*: 507]*

There are some cases in which the meaning of the respective attributive adjective is closely connected to its position in the clause; the meaning is different when used attributively and predicatively, for example:

- *The late queen X She is late.*
- *My old school. X He is old.*
- *A hard worker X The work is hard.*
- *Complete nonsense X The work is complete.*
- *The lawful heir. X It is quite lawful.<sup>6</sup> [*CamGEL*: 554]*

<sup>5</sup> *CGEL* calls these attributive-only and never-attributive adjectives.

<sup>6</sup> This phenomenon is closely related to the distinction between inherent and noninherent adjectives.

Ordinary attributive adjectives that can be used predicatively and still have the same meaning are called ascriptive [*CamGEL*: 554]. *CGEL* calls these adjectives central (see table.2).

### 2.3.1. Attributive-only adjectives

As far as attributive-only adjectives are concerned, the following types can be distinguished:

1. **Degree and quantifying attributives:** *a complete fool, a definite advantage, the extreme end, an outright lie, a perfect stranger, a positive joy and so on.*
2. **Temporal and local attributives:** *his current girlfriend, an erstwhile gangster, the eventual outcome, his former wife, future progress, a new friend and so on.*
3. **Associative attributives:** *clerical duties, criminal law, foreign affairs, a historical novelist, a lunar landing, a marine biologist and so on.*
4. **Process oriented attributives:** *a big eater, a fast worker, a firm believer.*
5. **Modal attributives:** *the actual cause, an apparent discrepancy, a certain winner.*
6. **Particularising attributives:** *a certain house, a particular idea, the chief reason, the main objection, our premier scientist.*
7. **Expressive attributives:** *my dear mother, her poor father, the wretched car.*
8. **Transferred attributives:** *smoked a discrete cigarette, a drunken brawl, their insane cackle, a nude photo of the mayor.* [*CamGEL*: 555-558]

Other examples of attributive-only adjectives: *damn, frigging, marine, principal, sole, drunken, future, mere, putative, umpteenth, ersatz, latter, mock, self-confessed, utter, erstwhile, lone, only, self-same, veritable, eventual, maiden, own, self-styled, very, former, main, premier, soi-disant, or would-be.* There are also compound adjectives that are based on participles and can be used only attributively, for example *a fund-raising dinner* or *a Sydney-based engineering company* [*CamGEL*: 553].



### 2.3.2. Predicative-only adjectives

*CamGEL* gives the following examples of adjectives that have the prefix *a-* and are used predicatively: *ablaze, aglimmer, alight, asleep, afloat, aglitter, alike, averse, afoot, aglow, alive, awake, afraid, agog, alone, aware, aghast, ajar, amiss, awash, agleam, akin, askew, or awry* [*CamGEL*: 559]. (Only a few of them can be used attributively: when in this position, they often tend to be substituted by the respective synonyms). In addition to these, *LGSWE* gives the following: *afire, alert, ashamed, aloof, adrift, averse, aware* [*LGSWE*: 508]. In the cases in which these adjectives are premodified, they can also occur in an attributive position: for example, *a half-asleep child, the deeply ashamed girl* [*MSA*: 146-147]. *Alert* and *aloof* can occur attributively even without premodification: *an alert expression, an aloof manner* [*ibid*].

There is a small set of other adjectives that are even excluded from being attributive and are predicative-only: *faint, ill, poorly, sick (BrE), unwell, well, bereft, content, drunk, glad, present, rife, or sorry* [*CamGEL*: 560].

Predicative adjectives can also be complemented (i.e. *able, accustomed (to), apt, conscious (of), desirous (of), devoid (of), fond (of), fraught (with), intent (on), or liable* [*CamGEL*: 559]). In that case, they occur either after a linking verb or in the post-head position. The complements of these adjectives can be realized by a prepositional phrase, an infinitive or a subordinate clause, for example:

- *He is slow/quick at accounts.*
- *She is fond of dancing.* [*MSA*: 143]

These complements can be optional or obligatory. In most cases, they are optional and understood from the context, as in:

- *She was afraid of dogs. She was afraid.*
- *Kim was very keen to take part. Kim was very keen.*
- *He's happy to leave it to you. He's happy.* [*CamGEL*: 542]

Some complements are on the other hand syntactically obligatory:

- *They are mindful of the danger. \*They are mindful.*
- *They were loath to accept their help. \*They were loath.*
- *They were fraught with danger. \*They were fraught. [CamGEL: 542]*

A complement present in a particular adjectival phrase can be realized by various prepositions:

- *annoyed about the delay, aghast at the news, very distressed by these insinuations, responsible for the poor performance, divorced from the reality, bathed in sunlight, afraid of dogs, based on/upon firm evidence, accustomed to getting his own way, very friendly towards us, or careful with money [CamGEL: 543-545]*

The complement can be also realized by a clausal structure:

- *I'm glad that you were able to come. She was insistent that the charge be dropped. [CamGEL: 545]*

There are four adjectives that license noun complements: *due, like, unlike, worth*, for example *The book turned out to be worth seventy dollars [CamGEL: 546].*

There are also complements that are licensed by a modifier of the head, or by a comparative inflection:

- *The bill wasn't as large as we'd expected.*
- *I'm fonder of them than you.*
- *They were so small you could hardly see them.*
- *This is still too hot to drink. [CamGEL: 547]*

There are also many adjectives that do not license complements of any kind, such as *ambulatory, bald, concise, dead, enormous, farcical, gigantic, hasty, immediate, jaunty, lovely, main, nefarious, ostentatious, purple, quiet, red*, and so on [CamGEL: 543].

Another syntactic function of an adjective is a role of an object complement (sometimes called object predicative, which itself suggests its predicative function). *LGSWE* defines the object complement as following: "It occurs with complex transitive verbs, it is

characteristically a noun phrase or an adjective phrase and it is normally placed immediately after the direct object” [LGSWE: 130]. The following examples show the object complement realized by an adjective: *He did not find her amusing and she found him quite disastrously dull* [ibid], *I consider it impertinent* [MSA: 141].

### 2.3.3. Postpositive adjectives

Some adjectives are restricted only to their post-head position: they immediately follow the head noun or pronoun. The post-head position is generally regarded as yet another type of attributive position as opposed to the predicative one. However, according to *CamGEL*, a postpositive function is, next to the attributive and predicative ones, one of the three main functions (although it is much less frequent than the other two) [CamGEL: 529]. For some adjectives, “the attributive position is generally the default, and in many cases the only possibility,” [CamGEL: 552] as is shown in the following examples:

- *They chose a young leader. \*They chose a leader young.*
- *We saw a black swan. \*We saw a swan black*

Postposition can be found in the following cases:

1. **Postposition occurs with the head that consists of the indefinite pronouns that contain *-body, -where, -one, or -thing***, for example *someone, somebody, something, somewhere, no one, nobody, nothing, nowhere, anyone, anybody, anything, anywhere, everyone, everybody, everything, everywhere* [CamGE: 446].

- *They want someone young*<sup>7</sup>. [CamGEL: 552]
- *Anyone (who is) intelligent can do it.*
- *I want to try on something (that is) larger.*
- *We are not going anywhere very exciting.* [CGEL: 418]

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<sup>7</sup> In this example, the adjective follows *someone*, which functions as fused determiner-head and so “there is no possibility of the adjective (adjectival phrase) occurring in attributive modifier position, and there are accordingly no structural constraints on postpositive adjectival phrases” [CamGEL: 552].

- *There's nothing good about being poor.*
- *There wasn't really anyone famous at Lordsborough University.*
- *There's something definitely wrong here.* [CamGE: 446]
- *Something useful (something that is useful)<sup>8</sup>* [CGEL: 418]

2. **The adjective is also postponed in some institutionalized expressions.** (The following table shows all the adjectives placed postpositively that are listed as such in the grammars of English cited at the end of my thesis. The reason for this survey is to check and compare the list with the results of our empirical study.)

Table 3 Fixed expressions from all the grammars used

	MSA	LGSWE	CGEL	CamGEL	CamGE	PEU
<b>Institutionalized or fixed expressions</b>		attorney general	attorney general	attorney General designate		Attorney General
	the president elect		the president elect	the President elect	President Elect	President elect
	heir apparent	heir apparent	heir apparent			
	court martial		court martial		court martial	court martial
	from time immemorial		from time immemorial			
			poet Laureate	a Nobel laureate		Poet Laureate
	postmaster general		postmaster general			
	the Secretary general					Secretary General
		notary public	notary public			
			vice-chancellor designate		chairperson designate	
	body politic		body politic			
	linguistics proper					
				the city proper		
			the person opposite			
		all of us, me				

<sup>8</sup> In fact, all the postponed adjectives in this category can be expanded to a reduced relative clause.

			included			
			Monday to Friday inklusive			
			Longman Group Limited			
			devil incarnate			
			the best car going			
			all things English <sup>9</sup>			
		Asia Minor	Asia Minor			
			Blood royal			
						God Almighty

As can be seen, the examples listed in standard reference books are not numerous.

### 3. The postposition also occurs when the modifying adjective phrase contains a complement:

- *It's a, a lounge not much bigger than the one we 've got now.*
- *He drew from the high soprano instrument sounds totally different from what we think of as saxophone tone. [LGSWE: 509]*
- *Hardin reached under the counter and brought out a badge similar to the one he was already wearing on his waistcoat.*
- *Helsinki has a character quite different from the Scandinavian capitals.*
- *You can buy a computer system good enough for most tasks for less than £500. [CamGE: 446]*

In some cases, the adjective is placed before the noun and its complement after it, especially with the adjectives like *different*, *similar*, *the same*, *next*, *last*, *first*, or *second*: for example *a different life from this one*, *the next house to the Royal Hotel*, *the second*

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<sup>9</sup> The expression *all things English* can appear in many alterations: namely, in the *Corpus*, as *all things Irish*, *artistic* etc. (see section 3.3) The postposition of the adjective here seems to reflex the functional sentence perspective, i.e. the final position of the most dynamic element.

*train from this platform, the best mother in the world, a difficult problem to solve* [PEU: 10].

4. **Certain adjectives, such as *present*, *absent*, or *proper*, are postponed for semantic purposes: the adjectives express different meanings in preposition and postposition, as is shown in the examples below:**

- *The men (who were) present were his supporters.* [CGEL: 419]
- *A few brief comments are sufficient for present purposes.* [OALD]
- *After two days crossing the foothills, they reached the mountain proper.* [PEU: 10]
- *We should have had a proper discussion before voting.* [OALD]
- *an absent expression*, showing that you are not really looking at or thinking about what is happening around you [OALD]
- *absent* in postposition means the opposite of *present* in postposition

This group also includes adjectives like ***concerned*** or ***involved***. According to Šaldová, *involved* and *concerned* can be regarded as “nonagentive passives reclassified into adjectives“ [PPP: 238].

- *The proposal seemed to be appropriate for the school concerned.* [LGSWE: 519]
- *Concerned parents held a meeting.* [OALD]
- *She was unacquainted with any of the people involved.*
- *He's a very involved father.* [OALD]

We can observe a similarity of these *-ed* adjectives with past participles. The postposition of uncomplemented *-ed* participles, such as ***discussed*** and ***obtained***, was tentatively explained by Šaldová, who regards these cases as elliptical [PPP: 238]. In other words, the postponed *-ed* forms are complemented syntactically (and, correspondingly, placed after the head noun) but the complementation is ellipted because it contains anaphoric elements, for example *the problem discussed* or *the results obtained* [PPP: 231].

It remains to be seen whether a similar principle can be observed, at least with some, postponed adjectives.

**5. Adjectives also appear in postposition when the noun is premodified by another adjective in its superlative degree, by *only*, or by the general ordinals *last*, *next*, etc:**

- *The best use possible, the greatest insult imaginable, the best person available, the only actor suitable* [CGEL: 418 - 419].

These postponed adjectives could be also used in unreduced sentences in the following manner: *the best use that is possible, the greatest insult that is imaginable, the best person who is available, the only actor who is suitable*. In these positions, the adjectives are used predicatively.

**6. Postposition is also usual with *a-* adjectives (those *a-*adjectives that appear in predicative function):**

- *restaurant aplenty* [CamGEL: 560]
- *The house (which is) ablaze is next door to mine.*
- *The boats (which were) afloat were not seen by the bandits.* [CGEL: 419]

**7. Some adjectives ending in *-able/ -ible* can be used after nouns in a similar way to relative clauses** [PEU: 9], as was explained above.

- *Send all the tickets available / available tickets / tickets that are available.*
- *It's the only solution possible / possible solution / solution that is possible.*<sup>10</sup>

**8. Postposition can help to distinguish the temporary as opposed to the permanent attributes of the referent.**

- *visible stars* versus *the stars visible*
- *navigable rivers* versus *a river navigable*. [MSA: 146]

**9. Adjectives follow measurement nouns:**

- *two metres high, ten years older, two miles long, six feet deep* [PEU: 10]

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<sup>10</sup> The categories of the adjectives in postposition are not strictly divided: the adjectives can oscillate between two or more categories.

The description of postposition as can be found in the grammar books used for this thesis is rather limited in the number of examples and does not provide information on the types and their frequency. The empirical part will explore the adjectives in postposition as they occur in *the British National Corpus* and compare them with those listed in the theoretical part. The aim is thus twofold: 1. to identify lexemes which appear as postponed adjectives and compare their list to the ones mentioned in the grammars. 2. to observe the factors which lead to the postposition.

### **3. Empirical part**

#### 3.1 *The British National Corpus*

The source in this thesis used for the excerption of the examples is *the British National Corpus (the BNC)*. This corpus was accessed through the website of *the Czech National Corpus*, available at <http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz>. According to the technical definition on the aforementioned internet address, a Corpus is “a collection of texts in electronic form (in the case of the spoken language - a transcription of speech), used for linguistic research. A special search engine facilitates work with this corpus. It will aid users in finding words and collocations in context and determine their frequency in the corpus and their original text source. It also enables further processing of the found data (alphabetical classification, etc.). Some corpora can be searched also according to parts of speech” [<http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz>].

The corpus can be also defined in a more general way: according to *Corpus-based Language Studies* written by Tony McEnery, Richard Xiao and Yukio Tono, a corpus is “a collection of (1) machine-readable, (2) authentic texts (including transcripts of spoken data) which is (3) sampled to be (4) representative of a particular language or language variety” [*CBLIS*: 5].

#### 3.2 The excerption of examples

The empirical part of this thesis is based on 1,110 examples of adjectives in postposition. The examples were excerpted using CQL in the *British National Corpus*. The CQL (corpus query language) formula had the following form: [tag="AJ."] [tag="VBD" | tag="VBB" |



tag="VBZ"] for searching the adjectives with the verb *be* in a certain form following them. (The range of the verbs following the postponed adjective had to be limited: for this reason, only the verb *be* is included.) The left context was set with window size as 1 and the PoS as noun. In the category “view options”, the number of lines was 2,000 and the context size 40 characters. In terms of sorting, the number of tokens was 2 and as a sort key, the node that is the adjective was selected.

(The search for the postponed adjectives that appear in *the Corpus* could have consisted in two parts: the first one being the search for those adjectives that follow the noun and are followed by a respective finite form of the verb *be*. The second one searches for those adjectives that follow the noun and conclude the sentence. However, as the amount of the adjectives that came as a result out of the first step was sufficient, this thesis will use only the adjectives that are followed by a finite verb *be*.)

After the CQL formula was input and all the parameters chosen, the *BNC* yielded 1,589 hits for the enquiry (the precision of the query is in fact very high). Out of these, 1,110 represent the required combination and the rest, which is 479 examples, are omitted since they represent an adjective in another syntactic role, as is shown in the table below (the recall is not 100 %, for there are also examples that are not representatives of the postponed adjectives as it is described in the introduction):

Table 4 Data after CQL

Total number of examples after CQL	<b>1,589</b>	
Examples proper	1,110	69 %
Excluded examples	479	31 %

### 3.2.1. The examples that are excluded from the description

As the identification of examples proper was a demanding task on its own, the description of other positions which *the BNC* yielded are described as well. These 479 examples can be divided into several categories according to which position in the sentence they occupy:

1. The adjective functions as an object complement. This syntactic position is represented by 128 examples. (Most often, the verb constructions contain the verb *make*, but also others, like *get* or *put*). For example: *What makes this practice abhorrent is the fact that recovery from surgery, as we all know, involves shock, pain, distress, and suffering. Those schools having no pupils absent were either small and/or rural schools. : At Ferrari, the only effort to put things right is either to find the scapegoat or to cover up the mistake and deny it ever happened.*

2. The adjective occupies the syntactic position of a subject or a subject complement. Also, since this thesis is not concerned with the morphological point of view, this category involves converted nouns or nouns as such, for in *the BNC* they are tagged as adjectives. There are 92 examples. For example: *Yeah, I feel one hundred per cent better. Bus drunk is sent to jail.*

3. The adjective does not appear in postposition, but apposition: it does not modify the noun but rather defines it. For example: *The word acrobatic is obviously unlikely to appear at all...*

A special group of adjectives in apposition are those that function as a proper noun: *Soccer superstar Best is still recognized throughout the world. Penny Marshall's follow-up to her debut Big is a moving elegy to the enduring capacity of the human spirit.*

Altogether, this type of apposition occurs in 86 examples.

4. The adjective follows the quantifier *bit*, which is the case of 17 examples. For example: *Getting tha, bit bad, are we? Bit better is n't it?*

5. The adjective is homonymous to a respective adverb that thus functions not as a modifier but as an adverbial. There are 26 examples of such cases. For example: *The pieces that work best are those that are harmonious with the wood's properties of strength and grain, not battling to impose a feet of engineering that might be better made with some other material.*

6. The adjective is rather a gerund or a present or past participle. There appeared three examples: For example *Self-catering is the way ahead for cheap breaks without bother.*

7. What is in *the BNC* tagged as an adjective is in fact a verb in its present or past tense form. There are three such examples. For example: *What Lazarsfeld proposed was essentially a trial-and-error process of winnowing out the poor , if promising , indicators of a concept in favour of ones which proved effective across studies .*
8. The adjective is in the position of starting a clause and therefore it performs other syntactic functions than being the requested modifier. (It is often difficult to recognize the syntactic role, for the spoken sources lack the punctuation.) There are 17 such examples. For example: *Yeah it's a hero Russian isn't it?*
9. The adjective is a part of an elliptical construction, mostly in spoken language. There are two examples. For example: *Six years alone is rather a long time.*
10. The adjective is a part of a compound. There is one example: *The nineteenth century had brought mass production in the wake of its industrial revolution , and this reversion to the home-made and hand hewn was a natural reaction .*
11. The adjective is a part of professional (technical) terms, mostly biological or medical terms. There are 13 examples of such cases. For example: *At the mouth of the river Ems strikingly low reflectance values were recorded ( 1.0-1.3% Rm ) although the top surface Carboniferous is represented by early Westphalian ( A and B ) , and is lying as deep as 3500-4000 m below sea level .*
12. What is in the *BNC* tagged as an adjective is an expression of a speaker's opinion, or a comment of the speaker. There are four such cases. For example: *Damn , that monkey sure is mad ! The contract sorry is very specific .*
13. What is tagged as an adjective is an unidentifiable construction that cannot be analyzed due to its very confusing, spoken form. There are nine such examples. For example: *Look Holly Nice Am I allowed to read them out to you ?*
14. The adjective *old* as a part of syntactical constructions is often converted to a noun or does not represent the postposition that is analyzed by this thesis. There are 78

such examples.<sup>11</sup> For example: *The 11 year old was grabbed from behind as she walked to school along this path in Milton Keynes.*

### 3.3. Analysis

The following part describes the 1,110 examples that remain after the concordance lines of the CQL were manually sorted. In this group, two types of combination noun + adjective stand out:

1. There are 481 examples of adjectives (43 % out of 1,110) that are a part of proper names of companies and other public services, such as *Limited, International, Inc, Utd* and others. These adjectives are confined to the final position.

*LIFESPAN ABLE is divided into two phases: a prepass phase which will validate the modules to be entered and a module entry phase which will enter the validated modules into LIFESPAN .*

*Midland Life Limited is a member of the Association of British Insurers and the Insurance Ombudsman Scheme .*

*The biggest problem facing Unix International is Windows and Unix interoperability.*

*Gupta Technologies Inc is to port its SQLBase database server to Univel Inc 's UnixWare and will also make its SQL/API application programming interface available , allowing users to integrate with the likes of Oracle Corp , Informix Corp , Sybase Inc and Ingres products later in the year .*

2. There are adjectives that are a part of institutionalized or fixed expressions in which the postpositon is required: *the Lord Almighty, heir apparent, Rainbow Coloured, body corporate, a voire dire, Procurator Fiscal, the Director General, the Attorney General (or the attorney general), the Secretary General, Court Martial (the court martial), minister-designate, battle royal, letters rogatory, and peers temporal.*

These expressions have been included in this category based on at least one of the following criteria: 1. they occur either in the dictionaries or grammars used for this thesis as dictionary entries and not as free combinations 2. they contain capital letters 3. they fall within specific lexical fields (i.e. administrative position or terms

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<sup>11</sup> The categories are established to demonstrate various positions the adjective can occupy: one adjective may then belong to two or more categories.

connected to law) 4. they do not occur only by themselves (*rogatory*: it has a clear adjectival form but appears only in this particular combination<sup>12</sup>). In most of these fixed expressions, i.e. *letters rogatory*, the postposition is a result of French influence.

The terms that occur in the theoretical part of the thesis (that are listed in the grammars used) and that occur also among our examples are: *heir apparent*, *the Attorney General*, *the Secretary General*, and *Court martial*.

The terms that occur in *the BNC* (and not in the grammars): *The Lord Almighty* (*the PEU* lists *God Almighty*), *Rainbow Coloured*, *body corporate* (*MSA* and *CGEL* list *body politic*: the former is “a legal entity, such as an association, company, person, government, government agency or institution [www.bussinessdictionary.com], the latter is a term describing “people of a politically organized nation or state considered as a group” [www.answers.com]), *a voire dire* (“a preliminary examination of perspective jurors or witnesses under oath to determine their competence or suitability” [*ibid*]), *Procurator Fiscal*, *the Director General*, *minister-designate*, *battle royal* (“an intense altercation, a battle involving many combatants, or a fight to the finish” [*ibid*]), *letters rogatory* (“a formal written request made by one judicial body in which an action is pending to another court in a different, independent jurisdiction...[*ibid*]) and *peers temporal*.

Altogether, there are 35 such examples (3.1 % out of 1,110).

To provide a list of all the remaining adjectives the table below shows the representation of adjective lexemes found in our sample:

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<sup>12</sup> Google search offers one combination in which *rogatory* is preposed: *rogatory commission*. This term originates in French and contains a postponed adjective: *commission rogatoire*. [www.proz.com]

Table 5 List of adjectives (104 total)

ORDER	ADJECTIVE	NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES	PERCENTAGE
1	<b>Concerned</b>	173	28 %
2	<b>Available</b>	140	22 %
3	<b>Present</b>	41	6.5 %
4	<b>Responsible</b>	25	4 %
5	<b>Payable</b>	18	2.9 %
6	<b>Long</b>	14	2.2 %
7	<b>Outstanding</b>	14	2.2 %
8	<b>Possible</b>	12	1.9 %
9	<b>Proper</b>	9	1.4 %
10	<b>Alone</b>	7	1.1 %
11	<b>Thick</b>	6	1 %
12	<b>High</b>	5	0.8 %
13	<b>Necessary</b>	5	0.8 %
14	<b>Extant</b>	4	0.6 %
15	<b>Due</b>	4	0.6 %
16	<b>Integral</b>	4	0.6 %
17	<b>Visible</b>	4	0.6 %
18	<b>Alive</b>	3	0.5 %
19	<b>Bistable</b>	3	0.5 %
20	<b>Adjacent</b>	2	0.3 %
21	<b>Afloat</b>	2	0.3 %
22	<b>Allowable</b>	2	0.3 %
23	<b>American</b>	2	0.3 %
24	<b>Asleep</b>	2	0.3 %
25	<b>Deep</b>	2	0.3 %
26	<b>Detectable</b>	2	0.3 %
27	<b>Excreted</b>	2	0.3 %
28	<b>Galore</b>	2	0.3 %
29	<b>Metric</b>	2	0.3 %
30	<b>Overt</b>	2	0.3 %
31	<b>Real</b>	2	0.3 %
32	<b>Unemployed</b>	2	0.3 %
33	<b>Unscathed</b>	2	0.3 %
34	<b>Useful</b>	2	0.3 %
35	<b>Wide</b>	2	0.3 %
36	<b>Wonderful</b>	2	0.3 %

37	<b>Absolute</b>	1	0.1 %
38	<b>Acceptable</b>	1	0.1 %
39	<b>Accessible</b>	1	0.1 %
40	<b>Aesthetic</b>	1	0.1 %
41	<b>Ajar</b>	1	0.1 %
42	<b>Applicable</b>	1	0.1 %
43	<b>Artistic</b>	1	0.1 %
44	<b>Attainable</b>	1	0.1 %
45	<b>billion-worth</b>	1	0.1 %
46	<b>Certain</b>	1	0.1 %
47	<b>Coarser</b>	1	0.1 %
48	<b>Collected</b>	1	0.1 %
49	<b>Complete</b>	1	0.1 %
50	<b>Conscious</b>	1	0.1 %
51	<b>Controversial</b>	1	0.1 %
52	<b>Correct</b>	1	0.1 %
53	<b>Countrywide</b>	1	0.1 %
54	<b>Deferred</b>	1	0.1 %
55	<b>Distant</b>	1	0.1 %
56	<b>Driven</b>	1	0.1 %
57	<b>Economic</b>	1	0.1 %

58	<b>Electronic</b>	1	0.1 %
59	<b>Entertaining</b>	1	0.1 %
60	<b>Existing</b>	1	0.1 %
61	<b>Extra</b>	1	0.1 %
62	<b>Faithful</b>	1	0.1 %
63	<b>Finer</b>	1	0.1 %
64	<b>Imaginable</b>	1	0.1 %
65	<b>Imperial</b>	1	0.1 %
66	<b>Implicit</b>	1	0.1 %
67	<b>Incorrect</b>	1	0.1 %
68	<b>Infecund</b>	1	0.1 %
69	<b>Inter</b>	1	0.1 %
70	<b>Interested</b>	1	0.1 %
71	<b>Invisible</b>	1	0.1 %
72	<b>Irish</b>	1	0.1 %
73	<b>Maltese</b>	1	0.1 %
74	<b>Novelistic</b>	1	0.1 %
75	<b>Obtainable</b>	1	0.1 %
76	<b>Open</b>	1	0.1 %
77	<b>Outstretched</b>	1	0.1 %
78	<b>Pending</b>	1	0.1 %

79	Prevailing	1	0.1 %
80	Problematic	1	0.1 %
81	Proposed	1	0.1 %
82	Readable	1	0.1 %
83	Receivable	1	0.1 %
84	Recoverable	1	0.1 %
85	Roman	1	0.1 %
86	Scientific	1	0.1 %
87	Simple	1	0.1 %
88	Sinister	1	0.1 %
89	Slavonic	1	0.1 %
90	so called	1	0.1 %
91	Squeaky	1	0.1 %
92	Stored	1	0.1 %

93	Stronger	1	0.1 %
94	Supreme	1	0.1 %
95	Tall	1	0.1 %
96	Unaddressed	1	0.1 %
97	Undercover	1	0.1 %
98	Unimaginable	1	0.1 %
99	Unknown	1	0.1 %
100	Unserved	1	0.1 %
101	Uppermost	1	0.1 %
102	Visual	1	0.1 %
103	Weekly	1	0.1 %
104	Worthwhile	1	0.1 %
	<b>Total</b>	594	

The table below provides information about the form of these adjectives:

Table 6 Formal types of adjectives (104 lexemes)

the type of an adj.	number of occurrences	percentage
Simple	36	35 %
<i>-able/ -ible</i> suffix	19	18 %
<i>-ed</i> suffix	15	14 %



<b>-ic suffix</b>	8	8 %
<b>a- prefix</b>	6	5.8 %
<b>-ing suffix</b>	5	4.8 %
<b>Compound</b>	5	4.8 %
<b>-al suffix</b>	4	3.8 %
<b>-ful suffix</b>	3	3 %
<b>-ous suffix</b>	1	1 %
<b>-ly suffix</b>	1	1 %
<b>-y suffix</b>	1	1 %
<b>Total</b>	104	

Table 5 shows that there are **594 occurrences (tokens)** of **104 adjectives (types)**. Out of this set, the following lexemes can be singled out.

3. 32 instances (7 types) of adjectives (2.9 % out of 1,110) follow measurement nouns: *long, thick, high, deep, wide, tall, coarser*. For example *Convoys half a mile long are watched over by scattered Afghan army outposts on the hills on the road. Initially, the great masses of floating pumice which had piled up on the sea made it difficult for ships to force their way through the water – rafts three metres thick were reported in places – but eventually...*

4. 17 cases (6 types) of adjectives (1.5 % of 1,110) start with a prefix *a-* and cannot be used attributively, which results in their postposition (they can be viewed as predicative-only adjectives in a relative clause and some examples also contain superlatives) : *alone, alive, adjacent, afloat, asleep, ajar*. For example: *The oldest Briton alive was celebrating her 115th birthday today. Plenty of land adjacent is*

available.<sup>13</sup>Over 250 centers at home and abroad will offer you an ideal leasing environment, suitable equipment and will make sure your first experiences *afloat* are safe – and highly enjoyable. Where she came from, the Gates of Heaven *Ajar* were the finest tribute, floral or otherwise, that she could offer.<sup>14</sup>

5. One adjective is postponed because it follows a compound pronoun and is modified further itself: *anything the slightest bit controversial* (0.1 % of 1,110). This example should have been excluded because it is a pronoun, not a noun that is modified: due to the presence of the modifier of the adjective itself the adjective follows the noun *bit*. It is however, an example of postposition.

The remaining 90 adjectives represent other types of postposition and they need to be explored closer: from these, ten most frequent ones and 20 other (randomly selected) examples are going to be analyzed to describe the different reasons for the postposition: the grammatical or semantic ones.

For the most frequent adjectives (see Table 5) it will also be interesting to see if they can be analyzed according to the nouns with which they tend to collocate.

#### Analysis of the selected adjectives:

1. **Concerned** is the most frequent adjective in the sample. According to OALD, before a noun *concerned* means “to be worried about something”, whereas after the noun *concerned* means “to be interested in something or to be involved in something” [OALD]. There is a clear distinction in meaning which the syntactic construction clearly points to (see section 2.3.3). The following nouns are some of its collocates: *individuals* (4x), *people* (4x), *animals* (2x), *countries* (2x), *chemicals* (2x), *companies* (2x), *professionals* (2x), *actors*, *adjectives*, *area*, *behaviours*, *cases*, *children*, *computations*, *country*, *crag*, *descriptions*, *differences*, *employee*, *experts*, *families*, *firms*, *genes*, *gentlemen*, *goods*, *governments*, *habits*, *industries*, *nationalities*, *network*, *numbers*,

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<sup>13</sup> The adjective *adjacent* can be also used attributively, as the following example from OALD suggests: *The planes landed on adjacent runways.* [OALD] The prefix of this adjective, as opposed to all others in this category, is *ad-*. [www.etymonline.com]

<sup>14</sup> For containing capital letters, this adjective can be also considered a part of fixed expression.

*officials, persons, pesticides, photographers, products, properties, pupils, skills, staff, structures, therapy, vessels, vulcanoes* etc. From this list it is clear that the most frequent collocates of this particular adjective in postposition are animate objects (*children, people, person, individuals, professionals* etc.)

2. **Available** is the second most frequent adjective in the sample. *OALD* may suggest that *available* tends to be used more often predicatively than attributively by listing more examples of predicative position [*OALD*]. There seems to be no difference in meaning related to the position but see below. The following nouns are some of its collocates: *options (4x), opportunities (3x), resources (3x), grants (2x) amenities, areas, characteristics, commands, controls, cources, databases, facilities, fittings, garages, illustrations, indeces, machines, media, methods, penalties, persons, programs, remedies, sanctions, shapes, services, sizes, sources, surveys, tests, trusts, typeface* etc. From these examples it is clear that this particular adjective tends to collocate with inanimate objects.

3. **Present** is the third most frequent adjective in the sample. *OALD* suggests that the use of *present* in this case means “to be in a particular place”, as opposed to the use of *present* before the noun that means “happening or existing now” as in *the present owner of the house* [*OALD*]. (see section 2.3.3) The following nouns are some of its collocates: *people (6x), members (3x), friends (2x), grains (2x), journalists (2x) others (2x), Africans, animals, appendages, Britishers, children, directors, felids, files, frequencies, gentleman, guests, ladies, Ministers, molecules, oxides, police, radicals, relations, scholars, sizes, staff, teachers, warbirds, witnesses* etc.

4. **Responsible** is the fourth most frequent adjective in the sample. As *OALD* suggests, *responsible* in postposition means “to be responsible for causing something”, as opposed to *responsible* that is used predicatively and means “to have a job or duty” [*OALD*]. The following nouns are all of its collocates: *people (5x), engineers (2x), factor(s) (2x), person (2x), agency, agents, bacteria, bosun, changes, condition, executive, guards, leader, man,*

*mechanisms organisms, persons, policeman, and pilots.* This list shows that the ability of being responsible logically belongs to animate objects.

5. ***Payable*** is the fifth most frequent adjective in the sample. *OALD* suggests that *payable* does not stand before the noun (there is no example of the pre-head position in the dictionary): *payable* appears in postposition or as a part of subject or object complement. [*OALD*] The following nouns are all of its collocates: *amount (8x), rent (2x), tax (2x), benefits, contributions, deposit, dividends, fees and interest.* The meaning of the adjective itself suggests that the ability of being paid corresponds with inanimate objects only, mainly to the word *amounts*. (Interestingly, a dictionary at [www.seznam.cz](http://www.seznam.cz) lists examples of *payable* only in the pre-head position, which is incorrect.)

6. ***Outstanding*** is the seventh most frequent adjective in the sample (after *long* that has already been dealt with). The following nouns are all of its collocates: *amount (3x), capital (2x), applications, areas, debentures, interest, issues, junk, orders, paper and warrants.* These nouns refer to economic entities, or at least appear in economic context: as *OALD* suggests, the postposition of *outstanding* is a matter of semantics here. (As opposed to the postposition, *outstanding* in preposition is synonymous to the word *great* or *exceptional*, i.e. *an area of outstanding natural beauty*).

7. ***Possible*** is the eighth most frequent adjective in the sample. As *OALD* states, *possible* does not usually appear before the noun but in predicative and postpositive function [*OALD*]. That might be the reason why there is not any clear link among the collocates since there is not any difference in meaning involved. When *possible* appears in postposition, it collocates with inanimate objects. The following nouns are some of its collocates: *basis, declaration, course, density, line, marks, pressure, production, record, registration, values and victory.*

8. ***Proper*** is the ninth most frequent adjective in the sample. *OALD* states that in the position before the noun it means “right, appropriate, or correct” [*OALD*] whereas after the noun it means “according to the most exact meaning of the word” [*OALD*] as is shown by one of the examples from our sample: there

is a clear distinction in meaning. The following nouns are some of its collocates: *charters, dealers, examination, interview, or survey.*

**9. Necessary** is the 13<sup>th</sup> most frequent adjective in the sample (*alone, thick, and high* have already been discussed). *OALD* lists *necessary*, as something “that is needed for a purpose or a reason” [*OALD*], only in predicative use, and when describing something “that must exist or happen and cannot be avoided” [*OALD*], *necessary* is listed only in pre-head position. The example from our sample shows the post-head position of the adjective, which can also resemble the predicative use demonstrated in *OALD*. The following are its collocates: *approval, data, fields, enquiries* and *guidance*.

**10. Extant** is the 14<sup>th</sup> most frequent adjective in the sample. Neither *OALD* nor *MD* mentions its position within the noun phrase. In *the BNC*, *extant* occurs in predicative and attributive position (in both pre-head and post-head position). In our examples, it collocates with *art, church, versions, or work*.

The following 20 examples have been selected randomly, cca as every fourth adjective in the table: these adjectives are supposed to represent the types of post-head adjectives illustrated or indicate other possible uses.

**11. Due** stands, as *OALD* directly states, (usually) not before the noun and has several meanings. [*OALD*] When it stands after a certain noun, for example after *money*, it means that it must be paid immediately [*OALD*], which is the case of all the occurrences of the word *due* in our sample. There are also other cases of postposition that contain *due* but in different meanings: for example when someone is *due* he or she is deserving something, as in *She's due for promotion soon*. [*OALD*] In *OALD*, there is no mention about a potential pre-head position. *MD* lists *due* in a prepositively, for example in the combination in *due respect*: *With due respect, is that question relevant?* [*MD*]

**12. Allowable** is derived from the verb *to allow*: the adjective thus expresses the same intention of the speaker as a potential relative clause in a passive voice, with a modal verb: “something that can be allowed” is allowable. Our sample lists two examples of the post-head position: *the times allowable* and *the rate of*

*interest allowable*. *MD* lists an example of preposition, too: *Meals are an allowable expense [MD]*. The potential semantic difference remains to be seen.

**13. *Galore*** can be also described using adverbs, like *sufficiently* or *enough*. [<http://www.etymonline.com>] *OALD* does not offer a detailed explanation: it says that *galore* is an adjective meaning in large quantities and lists an example containing postposition: *There will be games and prizes galore*. [*OALD*] *MD* states that it never occurs before nouns. [*MD*]

**14. *Unemployed*** occurs in postposition but can appear also in pre-head position.

**15. *Irish*** is employed in the noun phrase *all things Irish* in the sentence: *One of the reasons is clearly the cloying sentimentality with which all things Irish are viewed by so many Americans : DEC after all is a Boston company, and Boston has a large population that traces its roots back to Ireland*. From the example it is clear that *all things* expresses *anything/everything* (which is semantically empty), which may explain the postposition: the adjective is always postponed when the head of the phrase is an indefinite pronoun (see section 2.3.3). In the sample, there are more examples of postponed adjectives that modify the head of the phrase *all things*: *all things artistic*, *all things electronic*, or *all things wonderful* (to be explained further). This amount of occurrences suggest that in fact *all things* is a frequent substitute for the pronoun *anything*. These cases seem to constitute a specific type.

**16. *Wonderful*** is related to the previous examples. It is a part of the phrase that is used for expressing surprise: *in the name of all things wonderful*. *Wonderful* and *Irish* occupy the same position within the noun phrase that contains the combination *all things*. *OALD* mentions neither preposition nor postposition, so this particular example of postposition can be explained by the fixed nature of the phrase: it is a nonintegrated clause element, a disjunct. *In the name of all things* is a stable block expression that can add different adjectives: *wonderful*, *pretty*, *holy*, or *sane* (as can be found in google). One of the two examples from the sample clearly demonstrates the meaning: *What in the names of all things wonderful are you doing here?* (In the combination “in the name of” the *BNC* does not list any other adjectives, only *wonderful*.)

17. **Applicable** occurs in our sample as one example: *However, the normal rule applicable is that of caveat emptor which is reflected in s14(1) of SGA 1979.* “The normal rule applicable” means “the normal rule that can be applied”. *MD* lists only examples of predicative position, for example *This section of the law is applicable only on businesses.* *MWD* lists one example of preposition: *Businesses must comply with all applicable laws.* If there is a semantic reason remains to be seen.

18. **Billion-worth** is a compound that, in the example from the sample, follows the prize expressed in dollars: *Salomon reckons that last year \$2.3 billion-worth of junk bonds were re-packaged as collateralised bond obligations ( CBOs ) , and that currently up to \$1 billion-worth are being touted to investors .* As was explained in the theoretical part, *worth* itself usually licenses noun complements (see section 2.3.2). *OALD* does not mention the adjective *worth* in this particular position; there is only a number of predicative uses [*OALD*].

19. **Conscious** occurs as an object complement in the sentence *The simple fact is that making the prehistoric -- that is , the repressed -- part of the mind conscious is a vital aspect of the further development of the ego because conscious insight into itself and its motivation is essential to the ego 's rationality and competence in administering and mastering the instinctual drives of the id.* All the examples in *OALD* are of the predicative use or of the position of the object complement. [*OALD*] The selection of this example that is supposed to demonstrate the use of the post-head position of an adjective is clearly a mistake.

20. **Distant**: The postposition of the adjective *distant* in the phrase *cousins distant* is caused by the fact that the clause comes from a textbook as an example of combinations that are unacceptable as is shown by expanding the context of the example:

*This prediction is confirmed by the unacceptability of sentences such as :*  
( 11 ) *the sum of \$300 she had to pay was total the lecturer who is to greet the Queen is mere a scoundrel complete must have taken my umbrella the cousins distant were put at a separate table does not have*

*any special semantic reason: with the adjective in the preposition the meaning remains unchanged.*

*OALD* states that *distant* occurs before nouns and gives the example of *distant relatives (cousins, aunts)* [*OALD*]. The example from *the BNC* is therefore a metaexample. (In postposition, *distant* can be also used after measurement nouns, i. e. *20 meters distant* [<http://www.monsanto.co.uk/news/ukshowlib.phtml?uid=9620>]

21. **Entertaining:** *OALD* lists *entertaining* as an adjective. In the example from the sample it seems as a converted adjective that syntactically functions as a noun that is modified by another noun: *Another example of extremely useful group entertaining is illustrated by a luncheon organised by an organisation which was moving into sports sponsorship for the first time.* However, none of the other dictionaries used for this thesis list *entertaining* as a noun, so for these reasons, it was considered a postponed adjective.<sup>15</sup>

22. **Imaginable** in the phrase *the most menial tasks imaginable* is postponed due to the presence of *the most* (see section 2.3.3).

23. **Infecund** is not listed in *OALD* as an adjective on its own: only its antonym *fecund* occurs there although there is no mention about its position within the noun phrase (in our sample, it is dealt with the example: *The data on the proportion infecund are based on self-reported infecundity*). This clause is only one example from the entire paragraph:

*The latter is indicated by an analysis of data from 27 developing countries which showed that there are significant differences among populations as to the proportion of women already infecund in the early childbearing ages of 20-24 years , when fecundity and, usually , fertility too , are at their peak. The data on the proportion infecund are based on self-reported infecundity ( i.e. the female respondent stated that she*

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<sup>15</sup> In practice, such adjectives can be converted: google provides a sufficient amount of examples that demonstrate its frequent usage, i.e. *This is the place where we'll discuss host hospitality and gracious entertaining, including...* [<http://www.suite101.com/entertaining>]



*is infecund ) and on behavioural infecundity that was indicated if a woman who was continuously married for five years prior to the survey and did not use contraception had no birth during that interval.*

It can be argued that the post-head position of the adjective *infecund* is the result of contextual ellipsis: *the data on the proportion of the infecund women.*

24. **Open:** For the adjective *open* standing in postposition there is a clear reason: the adjective follows a noun that is modified by another adjective in its superlative degree (in this case by *the only*). *OALD* lists this adjective in many different meanings, but in this particular meaning it is not used postpositively. That means that the reason for the postposition in the noun phrase *the only window open* is caused by the presence of *the only* (see section 2.3.3)

25. **Problematic:** The postposition of an adjective *problematic* is the same case as *entertaining*. *OALD* lists this word as an adjective: only *MWD* lists *problematic* also as a noun [*MWD*]. The phrase *the study of an inner city problematic* in the sentence *From a purist point of view if the terms of debate set by the study of an inner city problematic are illegitimate then perhaps they should not be addressed at all* is in fact an example of such use (see footnote 15).

26. **Recoverable** in the sentence *a) one half of the loss of the other party in respect of the damage to their Insured 's vehicle or b ) not more than half the excess save and except that if the amount recoverable is \$50 or less this clause will be imperative* is again an example of a respective relative clause being reduced to an adjective: “the amount recoverable” is the same as “the amount that can be recovered.” From the semantic point of view, the meaning would remain unchanged.

27. **Sinister:** The case of the adjective *sinister* is a special one: in the sample it is listed as an incorrect example from a grammar book. It is, again, a metaexample as the phrase *cousins distant*. The whole example appears as following: *but note that Mark resembles the officer sinister is ungrammatical.*

28. **Stored:** The use of *stored* is an example of a reduced relative clause that follows the head noun of the phrase the part of which is the respective form of

past participle: *Under a third of the 23,000 litres stored was thought to have got into the supply system.* Any of the dictionaries used, however, do not list *stored* as an adjective.

29. *Undercover* was thought to modify the head of the phrase in the following example: *CHARTBUSTERS Undercover are set to rake in £500,000.* However, analyzing the example closer, it turns out that “undercover” is not an adjective, but the name of a dance group.

30. *Uppermost* is in *OALD* listed as used either predicatively or attributively prepositively, not postpositively. In each of these positions, the adjective has a different meaning. Although postposition is not mentioned, it can be perceived as a reduced relative clause: *OALD* lists the example *Defence is no longer uppermost in their priorities* (predicative use), which can be interpreted also as *defence being no longer uppermost*. The noun phrase *safety uppermost* seems to be a similar example, as opposed to the attributively used *uppermost* that according to *OALD* means that something is “higher or nearer the top than other things.” [*OALD*] The following is the example from our sample: *That dogs can be trained to walk on the leash with safety uppermost is shown by this guide dog helping its owner through slippery and snowy territory.* This shows that the postposition in this case is in fact a matter of semantics.

A closer examination of these 30 adjectives can be summarized as follows:

1. The presence of superlatives or limiters influences the postposition in two examples: *imaginable* and *open*.
2. The difference in meaning of the adjectives signalled by the position of the adjective can be found in six cases: *concerned*, *outstanding*, *present*, *proper*, *responsible* and *uppermost*.
3. The post-head adjective has the tendency to assign the term-like nature to the noun + adjective combination in three cases: *due*, *payable* and *recoverable*. This group resembles the previous group.
4. The adjective can take variable positions, either pre-head or post-head: there does not appear to be an established semantic difference as in category number 2, but there is

some potential for it (this issue would require further analysis). This phenomenon concerns five adjectives: *allowable*, *applicable*<sup>16</sup>, *available*, *necessary*, and *unemployed*.

5. There are two adjectives that seem to allow both positions freely: *extant* and *possible*.

6. There are two (three) examples of ellipsis within the noun phrase: *billion-worth*, *infecund* (and *uppermost*).<sup>17</sup>

7. There are two adjectives that follow the combination *all things*: *Irish* and *wonderful*.

8. There are two cases in which metaexamples occur in our sample and represent ungrammatical combinations: *distant* and *sinister*.

9. There is one example, *galore*, that allows only the post-head position. This may be due to its “adverb-like” nature. Interestingly, it is considered an adjective by four learner’s dictionaries (*OALD*, *MD*, *MWD* and *LDCE*) but an adverb, for example, by *OED*.

10. There are five cases in which the primary inclusion of examples proved to be wrong: *conscious* (functioning as an object complement), *entertaining* (syntactically functioning as a noun), *problematic* (syntactically functioning as a noun), *stored* (past participle), and *undercover* (a proper name).

It can thus be concluded that our examples, apart from the tendencies mentioned in the theoretical part, point to other semantico-syntactic factors, which have not been dealt with in detail. For adjectives from categories 3, 4 and 5 it will be interesting to present also an example from *the BNC* of the pre-head position of the adjective to consider whether and to what an extent the post-head position influences the meaning of the noun phrase.

***Allowable*** in preposition: *Physiotherapy was thus not previously an allowable treatment unless included in the above.*

in postposition: *The rate of interest allowable is the greater of contractual and judgment rate of interest.*

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<sup>16</sup> *Applicable* can be also placed in category 3, for the example from *the BNC* suggests that *applicable amount* may be a term.

<sup>17</sup> *Uppermost* can be also considered as a part of elliptical construction: *uppermost in one’s mind*.

**Applicable** in preposition: *Work out the amount that the Government says you need to live on, (this is called your applicable amount).*

in postposition: *However , the normal rule applicable is that of caveat emptor which is reflected in s14(1) of SGA 1979.*

**Available** in preposition: *The range of available options — particularly in public libraries — means that every library system needs a book provision policy, in which the priorities for provision are laid down.*

in postposition: *The options available are indicated to the user by the range of identifiable screen objects ( Helander 1988 ).*

**Extant** in preposition: *Most of the extant documents relate to this last period, which ended with the conquest of Persia by the forces of Islam*

in postposition: *Among the best Roman versions extant are the Temple of Fortuna Virilis , the Temple of Saturn and the Theatre of Marcellus , all in Rome ( 90 , 119 and 127 ) .*

**Necessary** in preposition: *Again it will be necessary to instruct a solicitor to examine the general and special conditions of sale relating to the property , and also carry out the usual and necessary enquiries and searches with all relevant authorities and other bodies .*

in postposition: *However , the practice of raising pages and pages of additional enquiries is now strongly discouraged , and the enquiries necessary are simply those to fulfil one 's professional obligations to one 's client .*

**Possible** in preposition: *Here the examiner will probably have divided up the possible marks in his mind among the component parts , and an answer to one part, be it ever so brilliant , can earn only the appropriate total for that part.*

in postposition: *The total amount of marks possible was two hundred and five and I got a hundred and nineteen or something I do n't know and, and goes yes I had to average five of his marks because he was absent .*

**Recoverable** in preposition: *The proposition that non-litigation costs can not be subjected to a process of taxation in order to quantify the recoverable amount is, in our judgment , unsound both in principle and on authority.*

in postposition: ) a ) *one half of the loss of the other party in respect of the damage to their Insured 's vehicle or b) not more than half the excess save and except that if the amount recoverable is \$50 or less this clause will be inoperative .*

**Unemployed** in preposition: *Nor was its misfortune unique , for Norwich, the capital of East Anglia , returned a moderate 40 per cent under £2 , far less than the adjoining countryside , yet within a dozen years the worsted manufacture commenced a decline that was to contribute largely to the total of more than 500 unemployed males , and altogether upwards of 2,500 destitute persons by 1570 .*

In postposition: *The percentage of males unemployed is a staggering 37.5pc with the ratio of women unemployed standing at 12.3pc .*

(For *galore* and *payable* in the pre-head position there are no examples in *the BNC*, and for *due* there is no need to present an example of preposition since in preposition, it is of different term-like nature.)

#### 4. Conclusion

The objective of this thesis was to identify and describe cases of the post-head position of adjectives and the reasons for such position. For these purposes, respective examples from the *British National Corpus* were used. When dealing with these, the major difficulty proved to be the identification of the post-head position itself. Remarks concerning the methodology of data collection can be summarized as follows:

- *The BNC* offered examples of both written and spoken language, with the latter often lacking punctuation, or other means facilitating recognition of clause elements (absence of capital letters etc). That is why there is one category in which all the unidentifiable examples are gathered (section 3.2.1).

- In *the BNC*, members of other word classes are also tagged as adjectives. Even from the expanded context, it was sometimes difficult to identify the role of the adjective: that is why the thesis contains adjectives placed under wrong categories, for example: *Another example of extremely useful group entertaining is illustrated by a luncheon organised by an organisation which was moving into sports sponsorship for the first time* (section 3.3.).
- During the analysis of the excerpted examples, some questions emerged that exceeded the scope of this thesis, e. g. the question of tendencies in cases where both positions seem possible (e. g. potential anaphoric use of adjectives (section 3.3)).

To summarize the data proper, *the BNC* offered 1,589 examples for the enquiry, from which 479 had to be excluded since they were not representatives of the sought position. The 1,100 examples of postposition were classified according to different criteria. (In the process, it was recognized that some adjectives were placed in categories under wrong assumptions and were immediately taken out of those categories: some, however (as was stated above) remained. They can be considered as representatives of the fact that the identification of such a great amount of examples is a demanding task on its own and therefore some mistakes occur.)

479 excluded examples were divided into categories in which both morphology and syntax played their role: most frequently, the adjectives occurred as object complements or were converted to nouns.

1,110 examples that represented the post-head position of the adjective were divided to the following categories and some of them closely analysed:

481 of them were discovered to be a part of proper names, mostly names of companies, which is a case of postposition that the grammars do not mention.

35 of them were fixed expressions: they were compared with the ones listed in the theoretical part with the following result: only four expressions corresponded. In practice, different fixed expressions are used than anticipated by the grammars: for example *voire dire* or *letters rogatory*.

32 examples were adjectives following measurements nouns, which is a case of the postposition as listed in the grammars.

17 examples were adjectives starting with a prefix *-a*, which is also a frequently mentioned instance of postposition.

After these instances of postposition were described, 90 adjectives (lexemes) in the post-head position remained: as a representative sample exactly one third of the adjectives (10 the most frequent ones and other 20 random examples) were selected to analyze different reasons for the postposition:

- It was discovered that in practice the examples of postposition are considerably more varied than the categories listed in the grammars: the issue is more complex in terms of classifying the reasons for the post-head position of the adjective.

There are two categories that were described in the grammar books: the category containing adjectives that are postponed for the noun phrase containing another adjective in its superlative degree, and the category containing adjectives that have different meaning regarding their position within the phrase.

The rest of the categories were established after the analysis of the adjectives from which the most interesting ones are the following:

- There are adjectives that in the post-head position assign the term-like nature to the nouns.
- There are adjectives that in the post-head position do not directly show any semantic difference as opposed to the pre-head position but that, regarding its position in the phrase, seem to relate differently to the previous context.
- There are adjectives that can take free positions within the noun phrase without any semantic change involved but may bring about differences in FSP.
- There are adjectives that are a part of elliptical constructions.

These aspects of postposition were discovered after the respective amount of adjectives was analysed: it was the corpus search that discovered them so it can be stated that the theoretical part, consisting of the samples listed by the grammars books, does not

sufficiently cover the postposition of adjectives as it appears in the practical use of English. Moreover, areas that would require further analysis were identified.

Also, postposition is generally regarded as a type of an attributive position but from the examples listed in our sample it is clear that in some situations the post-head position of an adjective is closer to the predicative use of the respective adjective than to the attributive one.



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## 6. Resumé

Úvodní kapitola (1) vymezuje cíl této práce: definovat postpozici adjektiv a její vliv na význam jmenné fráze, jíž je dané adjektivum součástí. V úvodu jsou také obsaženy příklady situací, ve kterých se postpozice vyskytuje, neboť oproti prepozici (postavení adjektiva před jménem) je postavení adjektiva za jménem mnohem méně časté.

Teoretická část (2) obsahuje několik sekcí. Sekce 2.1 definuje formu adjektiva. Rozlišeny jsou dvě základní: adjektiva neodvozená a adjektiva odvozená od členů jiných slovních druhů. Nejvíce prostoru je pak věnováno adjektivům, jejichž forma je totožná s tvarem minulých participií odpovídajících sloves. Beze změny formy pak mohou adjektiva fungovat i jako jiné slovní druhy, nejčastěji podstatná jména. Jiné slovní druhy mohou také zastupovat modifikační funkci adjektiv, tj. vystupovat jako modifikátory větných členů ve jmenných frázích, což je dáno analytickou povahou angličtiny.

V sekci 2.2 jsou popsány další vlastnosti adjektiv: ta mohou být rozdělena do dalších kategorií popisujících jejich rysy z morfologického, syntaktického, či sémantického hlediska.

Tato práce se opírá o dělení adjektiv do tří kategorií podle Duškové: 1. dějová a nedějová adjektiva 2. kvalitativní a hodnotící (která připouštějí stupňování a intenzifikaci) a relační adjektiva 3. adjektiva s přímým a nepřímým vztahem k relačnímu substantivu.

Zatímco uvedené kategorie směšují morfologické a sémantické možnosti adjektiv, pro účely této bakalářské práce jsou stěžejní ty syntaktické, kterým se věnuje sekce 2.3. Zde se nachází popis pozic ve větě, které mohou adjektiva zaujímat: mohou být použita buď atributivně, nebo predikativně, tj. mohou stát před nebo za jménem ve jmenné frázi.

Sekce 2.3.1. obsahuje podrobný popis adjektiv, která mohou být užita pouze atributivně a rozdělena do osmi skupin podle povahy modifikace.

Sekce 2.3.2. podrobně popisuje adjektiva, která mohou být užita pouze predikativně, jejich potenciální komplementaci a prostředky, jimiž může být tato komplementace realizována.

Sekce 2.3.3. popisuje adjektiva v postavení, které je tématem této práce: adjektiva v postavení za jménem. Podle gramatik užitých pro tuto práci může být rozlišeno devět případů, které takového postavení vyžadují:

1. Postpozice adjektiva je užita, tvoří-li základ jmenné fráze zájmeno, které obsahuje – *body*, *-where*, *-one*, nebo *-thing*. 2. Postpozice adjektiva je užita v některých ustálených spojeních, jak demonstruje přidaná tabulka. 3. Postpozice adjektiva je užita, následuje-li po adjektivu komplementace. 4. Postpozice je také užita, je-li dané adjektivum sémanticky ambivalentní a jeho pozice před či za jménem tedy slouží k rozlišení jeho významu. 5. Postpozice adjektiva je užita, je-li základ jmenné fráze modifikován dalším adjektivem ve třetím stupni. 6. V postpozici se vyskytují adjektiva, která obsahují předponu *a-*. 7. Postpozice je častá u adjektiv, která obsahují příponu *-able/ -ible*. 8. Postpozice je také nutná při rozlišení dočasné nebo stálé platnosti tributu. 9. Adjektivum je postponováno po jménech vyjadřujících míru.

V kapitole 2 teoretické části jsou tedy popsány všechny případy, které jmenují gramatiky použité pro psaní této práce, a úkolem následující empirické části je zjistit, do jaké míry se postpozice v teorii a praxi liší.

Kapitola 3 se zabývá empirickým zkoumáním adjektiv v postpozici, která jsou výsledkem hledání v *Britském národním korpusu*, a popisuje metody, kterými byl daný výsledek dosažen: pro zadání daných parametrů bylo třeba odlišit dvě skupiny adjektiv v postpozici: v první skupině postponovaná adjektiva předchází sloveso *být* ve finitním tvaru (díky omezenému prostoru byl výběr limitován je na toto sloveso), ve druhé skupině pak postponovaná adjektiva uzavírají klauzi. Z důvodu velkého počtu výsledných příkladů jsou v této práci popsána pouze adjektiva první skupiny.)

Definicí *Britského národního korpusu* se zabývá sekce 3.1.

Sekce 3.2 popisuje praktické výsledky hledání: z počtu 1589 adjektiv 1110 z nich (69 %) demonstrují postpozici. 479 příkladů (31 %) je buď nesprávně označeno v korpusu, nebo postavení adjektiva za jménem není příkladem adjektiva v postpozici, ale postavením jiných větných členů, nejčastěji doplňku.

Sekce 3.2.1. dělí příklady, které neobsahují postpozici (nebo obsahují postpozici, která je z hlediska analýzy nezajímavá, jako například ve spojení *a five year old*) do čtrnácti skupin: 1. Adjektiva vystupují jako slovesné doplňky. 2. Adjektiva vystupují jako podměty nebo doplňky podmětů (*subject complements*), nebo (ze syntaktického hlediska) jako adjektiva konvertovaná do substantiv nebo jako substantiva. 3. Adjektiva tvoří přístavky (některá obsahují i vlastní jména). 4. Adjektiva následují po kvantifikátoru *bit*. 5. Adjektiva

fungují jako příslovečné určení. 6. Co je korpusem označeno jako adjektivum, je ve skutečnosti gerundium nebo přítomné či minulé participium. 7. Jako adjektivum je nesprávně označeno sloveso ve finitním tvaru. 8. Adjektiva započínají klauzi, a nefungují tedy jako modifikátory. 9. Adjektiva jsou součástí eliptické konstrukce, a tedy nepředstavují postpozici. 10. Adjektivum je součástí složeniny. 11. Adjektiva jsou součástí odborných termínů (většinou termínů z oblasti medicíny). 12. Adjektiva se vyskytují jako nazačleněné příslovečné určení. 13. Adjektiva jsou v některých případech neidentifikovatelná. 14. Adjektivum *old* se vykazuje jako součást konstrukce, často syntakticky konvertované v substantivum.

Sekce 3.2.2. analyzuje příklady postpozice a podmínky, při kterých k postavení adjektiva za jménem dochází. Také dělí tyto příklady do skupin podle výše zmíněných důvodů.

První skupina zahrnuje 481 příkladů adjektiv, která jsou součástí názvů firem či veřejných služeb (nejčastěji se jedná o adjektiva jako *International*, či *Limited*).

Druhá skupina obsahuje 35 příkladů adjektiv, která jsou součástí ustálených termínů, nejčastěji z oblasti práva či administrativy (termíny jsou také porovnány s těmi, které se vyskytují v teoretické části, a ty složitější také vysvětleny z hlediska významu, neboť některá pochází z francouzštiny).

Zbylá adjektiva jsou pro přehlednost uvedena v tabulce i s počty jejich výskytů: dohromady 104 adjektiv vykazuje 594 výskytů v našem vzorku.

Z těchto se vyděluje třetí skupina 32 příkladů adjektiv, která následují jména pojmenovávající míru.

Čtvrtá skupina obsahuje 17 příkladů adjektiv, která obsahují předponu *a-*.

V páté skupině se vyskytuje jedno adjektivum, které modifikuje zájmeno: následuje po modifikátoru *bit*.

Po páté skupině následuje analýza sedmi nejčastěji se vyskytujících adjektiv v našem vzorku, která ještě nebyla popsána a u kterých je na první pohled nemožné rozpoznat důvody, pro něž se vyskytují v postpozici. Popsáno je také 20 náhodně vybraných dalších adjektiv, které poslouží jako vzorek pro demonstraci dalších důvodů pro postavení adjektiv za jménem.

Analýza zahrnuje adjektiva *concerned, available, present, responsible, payable, outstanding, a possible, a due, allowable, galore, unemployed, Irish, wonderful, applicable, billion-worth, conscious, distant, entertaining, imaginable, infecund, open, problematic, recoverable, sinister, sroed, undercover a uppermost*.

Poté následuje jejich rozdělení do skupin podle toho, zda jsou v postpozici užita pro gramatické důvody (tj. když je postavení za jménem jediným přípustným řešením), nebo zda jsou v postpozici užita pro sémantické důvody (tj. v postavení před jménem by adjektivum získalo jiný význam). Vedle adjektiv z druhé skupiny, jež se vyskytují v příložených příkladech z *Britského národního korpusu*, jsou následně uvedeny i příklady těchto adjektiv v prepozici, aby co nejlépe demonstrovaly daný sémantický rozdíl. Dodatečně je v případech adjektiv *available* a *applicable* popsána anafora jako kohezí prostředek řídící prepozici a postpozici daných adjektiv.

V závěru jsou shrnuty výsledky analytické kapitoly pro všechna adjektiva obsažená v našem vzorku. Kapitola 5 zahrnuje také všechny kategorie, které byly vytvořeny pro tato adjektiva za účelem jejich identifikace. V této sekci je také uvedeno, do jaké míry byla empirická část úspěšná z hlediska analýzy daných adjektiv a zda se ve vzorku vyskytly chyby.

Bibliografie uvádí seznam použité literatury seřazený abecedně a také internetové zdroje.

Dodatková část obsahuje výčet všech 1589 příkladů z *Britského národního korpusu*.

## 7. Appendix

All the examples are attached on a CD.